

Message Text

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R 221800Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT: SITE SURVEY TEAM FOR SOVIET EXHIBIT
(SCIENTIFIC SIBERIA)

REF: MOSCOW 0916, MOSCOW 2139

1. SOVIET SITE SURVEY TEAM (POCHITALIN AND DUGLADZE) FOR NEXT TRAVELING EXHIBIT ARRIVED FEBRUARY 14, MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (EUR/SOV) FEBRUARY 18 TO DISCUSS EXHIBIT AND SURVEY TEAM ITINERARY, PAID COURTESY CALL AT USIA EXHIBITS DIVISION FEBRUARY 19, AND BEGAN SITE SURVEY OUTSIDE WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 20. THEY ARE SEEKING SITES IN WASHINGTON, ATLANTA, FORT WORTH/DALLAS, SALT LAKE CITY, SEATTLE AND CHICAGO. FORT WORTH, DALLAS AND SALT LAKE CITY ARE CLOSED CITIES. SOVIET EMBASSY CULTURAL COUNSELOR SAKOVICH IS ACCOMPANYING TEAM.

2. POCHITALIN SAID EXHIBIT, WHICH WILL COVER ABOUT 12,000 SQUARE FEET AND WILL PROBABLY BE ENTITLED "SIBERIA: LAND OF TOMORROW," WILL BE PRIMARILY SCIENTIFIC. MAIN TOPICS IN EXHIBIT WILL BE: DEVELOPMENT OF

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TIFIC. MAIN TOPICS IN EXHIBIT WILL BE: DEVELOPMENT OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SIBERIA, US-USSR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, AND SIBERIAN HISTORY, PEOPLE, NATURAL RESOURCES, MINERAL WEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION. AMONG MORE SPECIFIC ITEMS MENTIONED BY POCHITALIN ARE;

FULL SIZE MODELS OF METEOR AND MOLNIYA SATELLITES, SCALE MODEL OF APOLLO-SOYUZ DOCKING, SCALE MODEL OF BAYKONUR LAUNCH SITE (A ROCKET WILL BE "LAUNCHED" FOUR FEET INTO AIR), LIVE SEALS (PROBABLY TO BE PRESENTED AS GIFTS TO US AFTER EXHIBIT) FROM LAKE BAYKAL SWIMMING IN TANK, GOLD NUGGETS AND OTHER GEMS, AND LIFE-SIZE MODEL OF SIBERIAN MAMMOTH. LITERATURE ON THEMES OF EXHIBIT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED, AND FILMS AND SLIDES ON EXHIBIT THEMES WILL BE SHOWN.

3. AS EXHIBIT IS PRIMARILY SCIENTIFIC, SOVIETS ARE SEEKING EXHIBIT SITES IN MUSEUMS. DEPARTMENT HAS PUT THEM IN TOUCH WITH SMITHSONIAN'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON, AND FERNBANK SCIENCE CENTER AND GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY IN ATLANTA. IN OTHER CITIES THEY WILL VISIT MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY AND TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM IN FORT WORTH, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN DALLAS, AND SALT PALACE IN SALT LAKE CITY. POTENTIAL SITES HAVE NOT YET BEEN SELECTED IN OTHER CITIES.

4. POCHITALIN SAID PLANS ARE TO OPEN EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON IN LATE OCTOBER 1975 AND TO CLOSE IN CHICAGO IN LATE JULY 1976. PROVISIONAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATES ARE: WASHINGTON 10/25-11/22; ATLANTA 12/10-1/7; FORT WORTH OR DALLAS 1/25-2/22; SALT LAKE CITY 3/13-4/10; SEATTLE 5/1-29; AND CHICAGO 6/20-7/18. THEY ARE ANTICIPATING STAFF OF 20-25 PERSONS.

5. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RAISED WITH SOVIETS POINT US SIDE MADE AT DECEMBER REVIEW TALKS THAT WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD PAY TRAVEL/PER DIEM COSTS FOR EXHIBIT LIAISON OFFICER. SAKOVICH, IN CONNECTION WITH SITE SURVEY TEAM'S ARRIVAL, HAD ASKED IF DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO SEND ALONG ESCORT OFFICER WITH SITE TEAM.

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WE INFORMED SOVIETS THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO HELP TO EXTENT POSSIBLE TO MAKE TEAM'S VISIT AND EXHIBIT ITSELF A SUCCESS. IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SOVIETS TO PAY COSTS FOR OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY SITE SURVEY TEAM, SINCE SAKOVICH HAD ASKED IF WE WERE SENDING SOMEONE ALONG. SOVIETS SAID THEY COULD NOT UNDERTAKE SUCH AN OBLIGATION. DUGLADZE SAID HE WOULD RAISE MATTER OF SOVIET SIDE PAYING FOR EXHIBIT LIAISON

OFFICER IN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WHEN HE RETURNS TO MOSCOW. FYI. IN ADDITION TO MATTER OF RECIPROCITY, TRAVEL FREEZE AND LACK OF TRAVEL FUNDS PRECLUDE SENDING OFFICER WITH SITE SURVEY TEAM. END FYI. DEPARTMENT (SOV) IS ASSISTING TEAM BY MAKING MUSEUM

APPOINTMENTS AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN EACH CITY BY PHONE.

6. NEITHER SOVIET EMBASSY NOR TRADE REPRESENTATION HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT, USIA OR COMMERCE CONCERNING POSSIBLE SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT IN 1977. AS EMBASSY AWARE, SECTION 4 OF 1974-1976 PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES OF CURRENT EXCHANGES AGREEMENT MAKES REFERENCE TO MAJOR INDUSTRIAL/TRADE EXHIBITION FROM SOVIET SIDE. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD HERE WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF SITE SURVEY TEAM, THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE NATIONAL EXHIBIT. WHEN TEAM RETURNS FROM TRIP, WE WILL QUERY THEM ON POSSIBLE PLANS FOR NATIONAL EXHIBIT. KISSINGER

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